

**NORTH AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
5 JUNE 2008**

**REQUEST TO EXTEND FUNDING OF A PREVIOUS ALLOCATION BEYOND THE
PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE**

1. Phoenix Project

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service were allocated a total of £36,000 for the period of November 2005 to November 2007, from six Area Committees. The North Area Committee contribution was £6,000. The project has only claimed a total of £1,600 leaving £4,400. The reason for this being that it has operated with considerably less staffing resources than anticipated.

We have received a request: -

- to transfer the lead organisation from the Fire and Rescue Service to Youth Offending Service
- extend the delivery date to March 2009
- transfer expenditure from capital to revenue
- amend project delivery.

The original award was to run an additional day course to build the success of the four-day course that was being delivered at the time and to complete capital work at the Farringdon Fire Station.

During 2007 a pilot was launched to see if young people that were offered the opportunity to participate in an advanced course called 'Respect' would re-offend in the future. This proved very successful. This two-day course was aimed at young people who have completed the original Phoenix. Four courses were delivered, with 34 young people targeted to be involved. One out of the 34 re-offended since completing the course, during a three-month monitoring period.

It is the feeling of the Youth Offending Service and the Fire and Rescue service that this would have a wider impact if this good practice could be rolled out across the City. It agreed the project would actively seek to work with up to 60 young people to participate on the Respect course.

The Area Committee is therefore requested to approve: -

- transferal of the lead organisation from the Fire and Rescue Service to Youth Offending Service
- extending the delivery date to March 2009
- transfer expenditure from capital to revenue
- amend project delivery

2. European Package Development Phase 2

The EU Development Fund Package Project (CED Capacity and Co-ordination) was allocated a total of £104,649 SIB for the period 1 March 2004 to 31 December 2006, from three Area Committees (North, West and East). This project seeks to complement European grant assistance that is provided towards the cost of co-ordinating the development and management of the Sunderland Targeted Communities Package. The package comprises of a number of integrated, high quality projects and has been developed to secure resources from Priority 4 of the North East England Objective 2 Programme.

Priority 4 (Targeted Communities) is intended to support those communities that are the most economically and socially deprived in the region in creating local employment and training initiatives. Grant assistance is available to develop initiatives in community capacity building, social enterprise and environmental improvements, as well as learning, training and local employment. In Sunderland, the wards that are eligible for this support are:

North: Castletown, Colliery, Southwick, Town End Farm
West: Grindon, South Hylton, Thorney Close.
East: Central (part), Hendon (part), Thornholme (part).

The SIB grant meets the costs of a small team situated within the Strategic Programmes and Europe Team. The role of the team is to support the work of the Package partnership in ensuring that the European funding is maximised and administered in an inclusive, open and transparent manner.

The North Area Committee contribution was £44,006. The project has only claimed a total of £28,712 leaving £15,294. The reason for this being that it has operated with considerably less staffing resources than anticipated.

The evaluation of the Priority 4 Package will not be completed until May 2008 and there will be a number of recommendations regarding the target areas that will have to be progressed in relation to the new programme and publicising the benefits of the structural funds to Sunderland

It is now clear that while the new ERDF programme will not include a separate priority for target communities, there will still be a strong emphasis on investing in disadvantaged areas through Priority 2 Business Growth and Enterprise and the new cross cutting theme for spatial cohesion. It is important that we are equipped to ensure that the communities currently covered under Priority 4 benefit as much as possible from this investment

Work on the new ESF program so far has concentrated on large scale bidding exercises. Further work is required to ensure that the voluntary sector can participate in the programme, for instance, as sub-contractors.

The Area Committee is therefore requested to extend the project until December 2008.

3. North Community Support Project

The Sunderland North Business Centre (SNCBC) were allocated a total of £52,250 over a two year period in January 2006 from North Area Committee. The project has only claimed a total of £24,883 leaving £27,417, the reason being that there have been recruitment difficulties in appointing to the post.

This project covers three strands – St Peter’s, Bunny Hill and Castletown and incorporates them all under the umbrella of the North Community Support Project.

The project has evolved from a variety of streams. SNCBC have worked with the St Peter’s Community Development Trust to assist with the delivery of the recommendations in the previously commissioned feasibility study in the area, enable a North Community Support Project to provide support to the group in documenting a delivery plan for the St. Peters area, identifying relevant partner organisations and Networks and compiling and submitting funding applications to enable service delivery.

SNCBC also developed working links with Castletown Community Association in the North area. The Community Associations have faced a number of changes over the last five years, particularly in relation to premises and grant aid. This particular CA had resisted change and although they had secured their premises on a medium term lease from Sunderland City Council, they had minimal resources to cover the utility insurance and maintenance costs associated with running the premises. SNCBC has partnered with other local voluntary organisations in the area to provide the CA with support. The North Community Support Project has worked with the group to examine potential methods to attract funding and/or create revenue and to further develop the skills of the members to enable them to effectively direct the Organisation in the future.

SNCBC are also the main deliverer of the community facilities within the new Bunny Hill Initiative., and feel it is imperative that local residents are fully informed and engaged with the new venture. SIB support has enabled the North Community Support Project to work with local residents to raise their awareness of the Bunny Hill facilities, encouraging their engagement in activities at the Centre and working with local residents to form a steering/management committee for the initiative.

Progress has not been as advanced as anticipated, due to the already mentioned recruitment difficulties that have been faced by SNCBC. However, an excellent candidate has now been appointed, and Area Committee are requested to extend the current SIB allocation until June 2009 to allow the project to further develop and deliver on the original objectives.